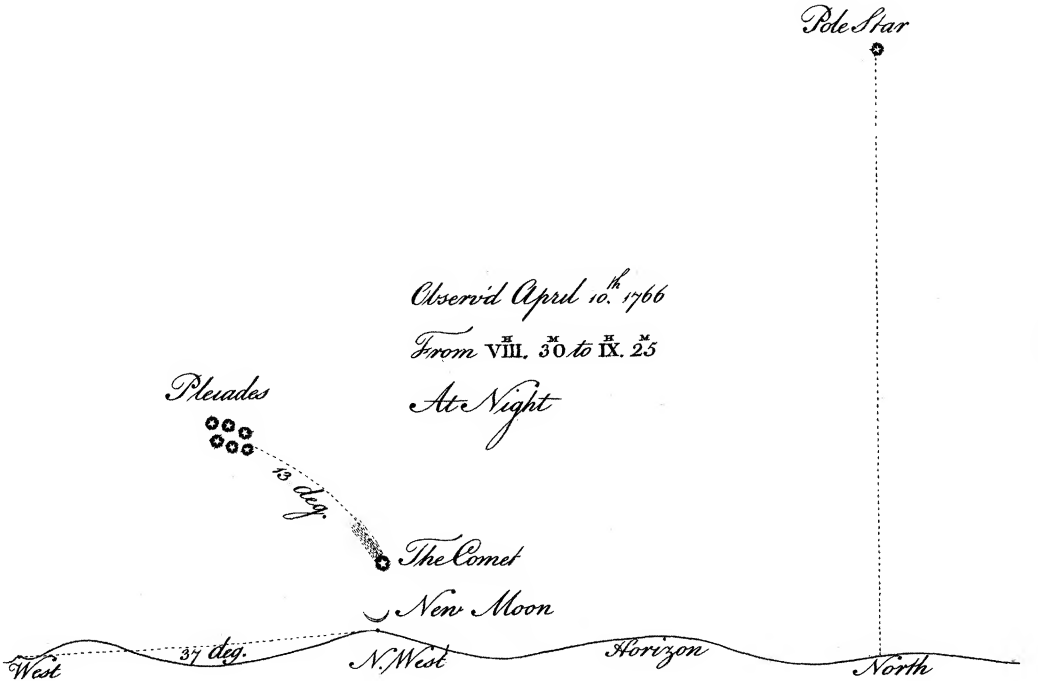
X. *A Letter from* Mr. Alexander Brice, *to the Earl of* Morton, *Preſident of the R. S. giving an Account of a Comet ſeen by him.*

Kirknewton, April 11, 1766.

My Lord;

Read April 17, 1766. I Beg leave by this, to acquaint your lordſhip, that, laſt night and the night before, I obſerved a comet in the northweſt, and very near the horizon. It began to appear at half an hour after 8 o'clock, and ſet 25 minutes after 9. The tail was very viſible to the naked eye; but the nucleus could not be ſeen by any, that were preſent with me, without a teleſcope, thro' which it appeared very diſtinctly, like a ſtar of the 4th or 5th magnitude. It was ſurrounded with a gleam of light, like what is ſeen round the ſtars in Orion's ſword, comonly called Janua Cœli. The tail ſtretched upwards, and inclined to the weſt, and was about 4 degrees long: the body of the comet was alſo 4 degrees diſtant from the new moon (then 34 hours after the change) and almoſt perpendicular above it; and it appeared to more advantage after the moon was ſet. The comet, when ſetting, was 37 degrees to the north of due weſt, and 13 degrees more northerly than the Pleiades, below them, but in the ſame tract: it is deſcending towards the ſun, at the rate of 6 degrees as near as I could gueſs, in the ſpace of twenty four hours; and unleſs the light of the moon, or the twilight prevents, it will


Pole Star
Observd April 10th 1766
From H VIII. M 30 to H IX. M 25
At Night
Pleiades
13 deg.
The Comet
New Moon
37 deg.
West
N. West
Horizon
North

J. Mynde sc.

will make a more remarkable appearance after it has paſſed the ſun, than it does at preſent. I know not whether this comet has been obſerved by any perſon about London; if I thought it had, I would not have given your lordſhip the trouble of this; but I wiſhed to put other people upon the look-out, who will probably make more of it than I can. [For the appearance of this comet, ſee Plate IV.] I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's

moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervant,

Alex. Brice.

XI. *A Report concerning the Microſcope-Glaſſes, ſent as a Preſent to the Royal Society*, by Father* di Torre *of* Naples, *and referred to the Examination of* Mr. Baker, *F. R. S.*

Read April 17, 1766. MR. Baker now returns the microſcope glaſſes, which the Royal Society did him the honour to refer to his examination: and he would have returned them much ſooner, had he not waited till he could examine them by bright day-light, being deſirous to do them all the juſtice in his power.

* Vid. Phil. Tranſ. Vol. LV. p. 258.